GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5538
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2000
COMMERCIAL USE OF HERBS
NAWAL KISHORE RAI;SHANKERSINH VAGHELA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have explored the possibilities of promoting Commercial use of herbs based on traditional knowledge of tribals in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to develop the herbs products in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a) to (c) The Research Councils under this Department have documented a number of tribal folk medicines.Council for Scientific and Industrial Research is also engaged in documenting them and validating them scientifically, to explore the possibility of patenting and taking up commercial exploitation. One such product in the knowledge of the Kani tribe has been patented by Arya Vaidya Pharmacy, Coimbatore.

(d) A scheme for cultivation of medicinal plants, preparation of Agro-technique for making available plants for medicinal use are already being implemented. A Medicinal Plant Board is likely to be set up.Efforts would also be made to strengthen Pharmacy and laboratory of State Govt. to ensure production of quality medicines.